



Senator Dave Schmidt's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

2/5/03

Dear Friends,

Sen. Dave Schmidt
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Committee Assignments

Higher Education (Vice Chair)
Education
Economic Development
Technology &
Communications
Rules

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, Feb. 4

1:30 pm: Senate Government
Operations & Elections
Committee holds public
hearing on **SB 5397** and **SJR
8210**, both sponsored by Sen.
Schmidt

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Home School Day

10:00 am: Senate session –
Home School Resolution and
Columbia Resolution

1:30 pm: Senate Government
Operations & Elections
Committee holds public
hearing on **SB 5398** and **SB
5399**, both sponsored by Sen.
Schmidt

I know you join me in extending my heartfelt condolences to the friends and families of the astronauts onboard the Columbia. This weekend's tragedy is a stark reminder of the possible price NASA's brave men and women pay to be the ultimate pioneers. Our thoughts and prayers are with these selfless heroes.

A quick update on the important "felony murder" legislation: It passed the Senate last week on a unanimous 49-0 vote. I expect Senate Bill 5001 to pass the House of Representatives sometime this week.

Wednesday of this week is Home School Day. We will pass a resolution on the Senate floor honoring home school parents and students. Also on Wednesday, the Senate will pass a resolution honoring and remembering those lost on the Columbia.

Several bills that I've introduced will receive public hearings this week:

- **SB 5397** – This bill will discontinue the current practice of rotating candidate names on all primary ballots. Studies show that the order of candidates on the ballot has no measurable influence on elections. But the myth of "first name on the ballot" continues. This rotating ballot method costs local governments money that could otherwise be used for more deputies or fixing potholes.
- **SJR 8210** – This bill amends the state constitution allowing blanket primaries in all Washington primaries, except the presidential primary. Most voters in Washington don't like it when the courts or state parties tell them who they can or can't vote for.
- **SB 5399** – This bill tightens the deadline for returning absentee ballots. Candidates and voters should not be left to wonder about absentee votes trickling in past a reasonable time frame. The deadlines in this bill will not apply to overseas or military ballots.

Again, please contact my office with any questions or concerns. It is truly a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Dave Schmidt, 44th Legislative District

The Nose

When a state senator delivers his or her first floor speech, it's tradition that they give all 48 of their colleagues a gift. So on Wednesday, new **Sen. Dave Schmidt** (R-Mill Creek) handed out \$5 lottery scratch tickets with a little note, "We're all scratching for a little extra money."

Cute. No word whether any senators scratched big bucks. And if they did, what are the odds they'd contribute it to the state treasury to help with that \$2.4 billion deficit? -- *The News Tribune*, 1/31/03